relative to one another at upper ends as opposed to lower ends of the lands permitting tight engagement of the strip against the lower ends of the lands and loose engagement of the strip at upper ends to facilitate opening of the strip pockets for filling, means for filling strip pockets, a cutter having spaced cutter knife edges thereon, and means for causing relative movement between the filling wheel and the cutter for engaging said knives to cut a film.

10. In combination, a package filling device having circumferentially spaced lands with wheel knife edges thereon, the lands being spaced for engaging transversely sealed areas of a strip of packaging film thereagainst of the type having pockets between the transversely sealed areas, a cutter having spaced cutter knife edges thereon adjacent said device, collapsible suction means between the lands for opening the pockets, air jet assist means cooperable with said collapsible suction means in the opening of the pockets for filling, and means for causing relative movement between the filling device and the cutter for engaging said knives to cut a film.

11. Apparatus for packaging comprising,

means for feeding a strip of material having confronting sides,

means for forming spaced pockets along the length of the strip material separated by sealed areas leaving ends of the pockets open,

a filling station having spaced lands and valleys along which the strip is guided and moved, knife edges on the lands,

the lands being spaced for engaging the transversely sealed areas of a strip of packaging film thereagainst, a cutter having spaced cutter knife edges thereon adjacent said device,

collapsible suction means between the lands for opening the pockets,

air jet assist means cooperable with said collapsible suction means in the opening of the pockets for filling, means for placing articles in the pockets,

means for causing relative movement between the filling station and the cutter for engaging said knives to cut the strip of material at the sealed areas to provide several packages, and

means for sealing the open ends of the severed packages.

12. Apparatus for packaging comprising,

means for feeding a strip of material having confronting sides,

means for forming spaced pockets along the length of the strip material leaving ends of the pockets open,

means including a series of collapsible bellows each having one end for engagament with one side of said strip, and which bellows collapses upon being engaged with the strip side for separating the sides for filling, and

means connectible with an opposite end of each of said bellows for collapsing the bellows and opening the pockets to facilitate filling of the pockets and for subsequently releasing the strip after filling.

13. A packaging machine including a package filling wheel having spaced lands, a first set of shear knives on the lands, means for holding a film against the lands, a cutter having a second set of spaced shear knives, spaced pairs of the knives in the sets being of varied lengths for the partial and complete severance of selective ones of the packages to produce successive strips each having partially severed packages, and means for causing relative movement between the filling wheel and the cutter for engaging said knives for cutting.

14. A packaging machine as defined in claim **8**, further characterized by said filling station having a central axis and said spaced lands having vertical cutting edges thereon peripherally disposed about the axis, the lands being divergently disposed on the wheel and more closely spaced relative to one another at upper ends as opposed to lower ends of the lands permitting tight engagement of a film strip against the lower ends of the lands and loose engagements of the strip at upper ends to facilitate opening of the strip pockets for filling, the lands being angularly disposed relative to the central axis with lands each being closer to the central axis at one end as compared to its opposite end.

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